

Indiana University McKinney School of Law

2012- 2013 PRAC Annual Report on Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Accreditation

Indiana University McKinney School of Law (McKinney School of Law), while a part of the IUPUI campus and thus included in the campus requirements for accreditation under the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission (NCA HLC), is also subject to accreditation by the American Bar Association (ABA). The ABA conducts a full sabbatical site evaluation every seven (7) years. Additionally, every law school is required to complete a comprehensive Annual Questionnaire to ensure continued compliance with accrediting Standards. McKinney's last site visit by the ABA was in October 2009. Notification of full reaccreditation was received on 11 May 2011. (For additional information about the ABA accreditation process, please visit http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/misc/legal_education/2010_a_ba_accreditation_brochure.authcheckdam.pdf.)

Student Learning Outcomes

At this time, the ABA Standards do not include student learning outcomes (SLOs) as assessment has been input-based rather than outcome-based, but this is changing. SLOs have been contemplated for inclusion for several years and are expected to become part of the Standards once final drafting and adaptation has occurred.

While the ABA Standards do not require SLOs, the NCA HLC is placing an increasing emphasis on them. To that end, McKinney School of Law, along with each credential-granting program at IUPUI, defined explicit SLOs in 2011. McKinney School of Law offers three professional degrees: the J.D., LL.M., and S.J.D. degrees. The corresponding SLOs are:

Students who graduate with a J.D. degree will:

1. Identify and apply fundamental principles of Civil Procedure, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, Torts and Constitutional Law.
2. Communicate effectively with clients, decision-makers, and a range of other stakeholders in the legal system.
3. Apply strategies for identifying, analyzing, researching and solving legal problems.
4. Analyze a self-selected topic of interest in the law and write a substantial research paper on said topic.
5. Recognize and resolve ethical issues in light of the history, traditions and responsibilities of the American legal profession and its members.
6. Demonstrate mastery of at least one (1) professional skill generally regarded as necessary for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession.

Students who graduate with an LL.M. degree will:

1. Identify and apply fundamental principles of their selected specialty track of study.
2. Apply strategies for identifying, analyzing, researching and solving legal problems.
3. Analyze a topic in the law related to their selected specialty track of study and write a substantial research paper of publishable quality on said topic (if required by the track of study).

Students who graduation with an S.J.D. degree will:

1. Compose and defend a dissertation of publishable quality that constitutes an original and substantial scholarly contribution of the areas of law in which it is written.

As things progress on the ABA SLO front, McKinney administration expects that the aforementioned SLOs will likely change to meet ABA reaccreditation standards. As of fall 2013, the ABA reaccreditation standards have not yet changed; however, the McKinney School of Law administration continues to have discussions regarding the anticipated changes.

Student Learning Outcome Measurement

At present, the SLOs for the J.D. degree are measured in two cumulative ways: Indiana bar passage rates and employment statistics.

McKinney School of Law bar passage rates (most recent data available)*

Date	McKinney Candidates	McKinney # Passing	McKinney Pass Rate
July 2013	184	147	80%
February 2013	39	31	79%

** These figures subject to change following the review of failing applicants' appeals.*

McKinney's bar passage rates continue to meet or exceed ABA accreditation standards for bar passage rates.

The July 2013 pass rate of 80% is higher than the July 2012 pass rate of 75%, and the February 2013 pass rate of 79% is higher than the February 2012 pass rate of 57%. However, in an effort to improve the passage rate of our graduates, McKinney School of Law has added two 1-credit pass/fail bar preparatory courses to its Spring 2014 class schedule. The courses are strongly recommended for students with a grade point average below 3.0.

For past McKinney School of Law bar exam statistics through February 2006, please visit <http://www.indylaw.indiana.edu/students/barresults.htm>.

Indiana statewide bar passage rates (most recent data available)*

Date	Candidates	Pass Rate
July 2013	484	82%
Feb. 2013	176	82%

For past statewide bar exam statistics, please visit <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/ble/2360.htm>.

It is important to note that the bar exam results are a single part of the licensing process adopted by the Indiana Supreme Court, which also requires an applicant to pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) and graduate from law school.

Employment statistics

Our SLOs can also be measured by our employment statistics, as arguably one reason students receive employment offers is because they have demonstrated mastery of the SLOs, which are examples of some of the skills required of attorneys.

Employment status (within 9 months of graduation) for the 285 of the 295 graduates from the class of 2012 who reported their status is as follows:

- 89.12% employed
- .70% enrolled in a full-time degree program
- 9.47% seeking work; and
- .35% NOT seeking work at this time.

The class of 2012 includes December 2011, May 2012 and August 2012 degree certifications.

Additional employment information can be found at <http://indylaw.indiana.edu/career/empstatus11.htm>.